



## **Whidbey Island**

### **For the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF)**

#### ***From the Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Ten (CPRW-X)***

Congratulations on your orders to NAS Whidbey Island, one of the Navy, and Naval Aviation's true gems. With the large-scale transformation occurring on our base, we developed this info package to cut through the myths, acknowledge where things are hard, and give you (and your family ) the best info possible.

PLEASE don't hesitate to reach-out to your Chain of Command if you have any questions or concerns.

Our goal is that this remains a living document, becoming updated just about every month with the latest and greatest issues and concern.

Taking care of you, and your families is our absolute top priority.

Our Best to you... and welcome to the Delemus Team!

#### **What's Happening at CPRW-X and NAS Whidbey**

Our active duty force of P-3 and EP-3 is transitioning to the P-8 Poseidon (VP) and MQ-4H Triton (VUP).

At the same time, our three active duty VP squadrons in Kaneohe Bay, HI are moving to Whidbey.

To support our six West Coast VP squadrons, we have grown from 2 to 6 Mobile Tactical Operations Centers (MTOCs).

K-Bay squadrons will arrive in 6 month intervals beginning in Sep 16, in the following order: VP-4, VP-47, VP-9.

Upon arrival, these squadrons turn in their P-3 keys, get 45 days off, and then begin their transition to P-8.

This P-8 transition occurs, roughly, in thirds, 33% in Whidbey, 33% in Jax, and 33% in Whidbey. This splits temporary duty time between the sea-duty squadron and shore-duty training command.

After these squadrons transition, we will take a six month pause, and then transition VP-1, VP-47 and VP-40.

By Oct 2019, no active duty VP squadrons are scheduled to be flying P-3s.

Our reserve squadron (VP-69) is scheduled to remain in P-3s until about 2023.

In Oct 2016, CPRW-X will take over duties as Commander, Task Force 32.

In May 2017, CPRW-2 will disestablish, and CPRW-X will assume ownership of VPU-2 in Hawaii.

On 30 Sep 2019, VPU-2 is scheduled to fly its last operational hour.

On 30 Sep 2020, VQ-1 is scheduled to fly its last operational hour.

The Signals Intelligence capabilities in VQ-1 are scheduled to be replaced by VUP-19 (Jacksonville) and VUP-11.

VUP-11 will have its Mission Control Station in Whidbey, while its aircraft will be in Pt Mugu, CA.

VUP-11 is scheduled to begin standing up in 2019/2020.

**By the numbers:**

Due to the demands of this transition, a six-year spike in personnel has begun to strain the local housing market.

Active Duty MPRF Personnel assigned to CPRW-X:

**2007 (2360);** 2016 (2080); 2017 (2700); 2018 (2970);  
2020 (2890); 2021 (2700); **2022 (2440)** *gain from 2007 to 2022: 80*

**Recommendations:** All hands are encouraged to:

**Be proactive**, and prepare for the possibility that your family may need to choose between one of three primary criteria:

- Availability *How soon you can get into a residence*
- Location *How close to base, school, or other considerations*
- Amenities *Does it have the space, appliances, appearance you desire*

**Save** money, to include their Dislocation Allowance, to provide the flexibility to achieve your primary criteria.

**Save** one's Temporary Lodging Entitlement (TLE; 10 days) for their Whidbey arrival.

**Contact** the Housing Director, who has the latest/greatest information to include local agencies and listings.

*Mr. Tim Switalski; timothy.switalski@navy.mil or (360) 257-1012*

**Contact** the School Liaison, who can help your children get in the right school

*Ms. Brenda Kovach; Brenda.kovach@navy.mil or (360) 257-6863*

## HOUSING

### **If you have dependents and want to live on base (Public Private Venture (PPV))**

Base housing consists of a number of older and newer units spread across multiple locations. Base Housing will offer the first available house, which may be an older unit. Waiting for a newer unit leads to longer wait times (if you decline an old house, you move to the end of the wait for a new unit).

Base housing is Pet Friendly (most private rentals are not).

<u>Avg wait (months)</u>	<u>Older Style</u>	<u>Newer Style</u>	<u># Personnel on List</u>	<u>VP-4</u>	<u>VP-47</u>
E-5 & below 2BR:	3-5			10	6
E-6 & below 3BR:	3-5	5-7		6	2
E-6 & below 4BR:	3-5	5-7		3	0
E-7 & above 3BR:	3-5	5-7		11	8
E-7 & above 4BR:	3-5	5-7		3	0
<u>Current Occupancy Rate:</u>		97%			

These wait times are based on when applications are received, which can occur as soon as orders are received. Many are still offered a house upon arrival.

To address rumors, as of **Aug 16**, there are **34** units currently filled by non-military-dependent-families. **23** for Single Sailors, 6 for retirees, 2 DoD affiliated civilians, and 3 civilians. The Single Sailors live in Whidbey Apartments, which are not sought after by incoming families. The leases for the 6 retirees, 2 DoD affiliated civilians, and 3 civilians all expire in December of this year (their departure can be accelerated, but it is a complicated process... though the base is willing to execute if required).

### **If you have dependents and want to live off-base (Private Housing)**

Navy considers the local housing area to be any location within a 60 minute drive to the base. As a result, civilian housing ranges from Sedro Woolley to Clinton, with four primary areas, each having unique benefits dependent upon your family's desires: Coupeville, Oak Harbor, Anacortes and Mt Vernon/I-5 corridor.

As of 1 Aug, there are **142** total units available (apartments, condos, duplexes, houses, mobile homes, and studios), broken down as follows:

Anacortes:	20	LaConner	0
Burlington	4	Langley	3
Clinton	0	Mt Vernon	5
Coupeville	3	Oak Harbor	101
Freeland	2	Sedro Wooley	4
Greenbank	0		

Few of these houses or apartments are pet friendly.

BAH rates change annually, and housing data is collected by DoD annually, in the spring and summer when housing markets are most active. Current BAH rates are available at:

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>; Zip: 98278

**If you are single, and E4 and below**

Barracks are mandatory for single E-4 and below. E-4 are able to route a chit to move off base (260 chits are currently in the system). There is no timeline for chit approval.

NAS Whidbey Island expects to have enough rooms for VP-4/47 and is conducting a detailed study in advance of VP-9's arrival.

## CHILDCARE

[www.MilitaryChildCare.com](http://www.MilitaryChildCare.com) is your source for Childcare Information

NAS Whidbey Island's goal is to add one Child Development Home (CDH) per month for the next year which, in combination with the two Child Development Centers (CDCs) will provide enough Navy certified child care to meet the needs of the base through the growth from our K-Bay squadrons.

Families should get on the waitlist via [www.MilitaryChildCare.com](http://www.MilitaryChildCare.com) prior to moving with an anticipated 'date care is needed'. Getting on this list is a critical part of securing child care upon arrival.

In filling out information on the website, it is highly recommended that one lists ALL care options, as generally the CDHs come up as the first option, and the parent can accept this care while still remaining on the wait list for a CDC. This meets their immediate needs while the system works to meet their desires.

**The current wait time once a family arrives and has updated their status on the website to on-island is about two months:** Infants: **1.7** mo / Pretoddlers: **2.2** mo / Toddlers: **1.9** mo / Preschool: **1.5** mo

There is currently no wait list for summer day camp.

The addition of more CDHs will reduce this time.

**Anyone interested in providing child care as a CDH Provider or CDC employee should contact the Child and Youth Programs Director, Ms. Genia Wessels at (360) 257-6423 or [genia.wessels@navy.mil](mailto:genia.wessels@navy.mil).**

## **MEDICAL CARE**

NASWI is different than Jacksonville or Kaneohe Bay in that its hospital does not have Emergency Room care. Instead, Emergency Care is provided at hospitals in Anacortes and Coupeville (north and south of Oak Harbor respectively).

Our base's growth has been extensively communicated to these facilities and they are confident they can handle the additional load. There had been concern about psychiatric care, but the NASWI Hospital recently hired a psychiatrist to assist with this load.

NASWI does have a child delivery ward that handles deliveries 24/7.

NASWI Hospital recently went through an extensive reorganization to maximize the efficiency of its appointment system and the results were significant.

- The next available appointment with Primary Caregivers went from 22 days to 4 days.
- Sick-call has been replaced by same-day appointments, eliminating the 2-3 hour waiting room wait.
- 100% of patients are now seen by a provider vice a nurse or corpsman.
- Nearly 100% of all military personnel see their own squadron's flight surgeon.

All Hands are confident this trend will continue with VP-4, VP-47, and VP-9's arrival.

The hospital is actively hiring an additional provider and a few more support staff to expand clinic hours.